

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 853

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mr. Jackie C. Hays on the occasion of his retirement from the West Wilson Utility District.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackie C. Hays is one such estimable person who has served with acumen and alacrity for more than forty years with the West Wilson Utility District (W.W.U.D.); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hays retired as the General Manager of the West Wilson Utility District on December 31, 2001 after a long and distinguished career. He has seen the utility grow leaps and bounds from its humble beginnings over forty-two and a-half years ago, as Mr. Hays was the utility's first employee; and

WHEREAS, before 1959, most residents in West Wilson County depended solely upon well water; on April 10, 1956, the first W.W.U.D. Commissioners were appointed by the county executive; O.F. Howell, J.A. Gifford, and Wilborn Wright then met to form a public water supply district. It was soon after that first meeting that Mr. Hays was contacted and hired as the first and only employee of the utility district; he began his illustrious career by checking water lines,

watching contractors lay the initial twenty-five miles of line, and working at the water treatment plant, which, at that time, only had a capacity to supply 300 gallons per minute; and

WHEREAS, within two years, the first meters were installed with a mere 250 customers on board; today the utility district serves more than 13,674 people, covering a region of 290 miles and supplying up to eight million gallons per day. With the new plant currently under construction, that capacity will double; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the water treatment plant was renamed to honor the man who was present during the Utility's infancy and has been instrumental in its overall success; the facility is now known as the Jackie C. Hays Water Treatment Plant Facility; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Mr. Hays became the third general manager of the utility, following George Taylor and John Curd; he has expertly supervised a staff that has grown to forty-six employees and an office that has known little turnover, except in cases of retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hays is an active and important part of his community and his profession. He is a member of the National Rural Water Association, a lifetime member of the American Water Works Association, a twenty-year board member of the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts, and a member of the Kentucky/Tennessee American Water Works and the University of Tennessee Foothills Club, among others; and

WHEREAS, an avid University of Tennessee football fan, Mr. Jackie Hays exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Jackie enjoys the loving companionship of his devoted wife of fifty years, Helen; their marriage has been blessed with a son, Michael Hays, two daughters, Medina Vail and Michelle Fisher, and eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Hays demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and employees alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Mr. Jackie C. Hays our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, as well as pay tribute to his exemplary 42-year career with the West Wilson Utility District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.